

**Question for written answer E-000109/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Supporting tests on independent, open-air poultry farms

The successive waves of bird flu have not only resulted in the regular slaughtering of all poultry on affected farms, but also in all previously free-range poultry having to be kept in clausturation.

This is bad both for animal welfare and consumers, as meat is labelled 'free-range' despite the poultry having been reared indoors.

France, however, is going to test biosecurity measures against bird and swine flu specifically designed for independent open-air farms across dozens of holdings. The aim is to eventually get open-air farms back up and running, for the good of animals and consumers.

1. Does the Commission know whether similar tests are being carried out in other EU Member States?
2. Would it be ready to fund further tests to this end?
3. As poultry vaccination has not proven to be effective, would it not be better to favour independent open-air farms, without systematic slaughtering, to allow for the selection of poultry that are more resistant to bird flu?

Submitted: 15.1.2024